

## MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 14, 2019

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING TODAY AT THE WILLOUGHBY WESTERN LAKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STATE OF THE CITIES. I DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- MOVING FORWARD IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION WITH THE STAFF BEING BACK AT CITY HALL, THE MAYOR'S COURT BEING REOPENED, THE APPOINTMENT OF LAW DIRECTOR O'LEARY AND THE CONTINUED GREAT SERVICE FROM OUR POLICE, FIRE AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.
- WITH THE GROUP BEING PRIMARILY BUSINESSES IN NATURE, I THEN REPORTED ON THE UNFORTUNATE SUDDEN CLOSING OF GIANT EAGLE AND OUR ATTEMPT TO FILL THAT VOID WITH ALDI'S TAKING OVER THE FORMER SEARS & MOTORCYCLE BUILDING VERY SOON.
- I BELIEVE THE SHOPPES OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS ARE CONTINUING TO RECRUIT BUSINESSES THROUGH THEIR RECENT ACQUISITION OF PRODUCE PACKAGING, WHICH IS CURRENTLY MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE PLANNING PROCESS.
- IN AN ATTEMPT TO BETTER MARKET AND HAVE A PULSE ON OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY, I HAVE CREATED A "BUSINESS ADVOCACY TEAM" OR "BAT TEAM" AS I CALL IT AND ARE ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS TO BECOME A BATMAN OR BATWOMAN TO DO A BETTER JOB IN THIS AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- WE ARE ALSO MOVING FORWARD ON PLACING A POLICE SUBSTATION AT THE SHOPPES OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.

- THE YMCA DREAM HOUSE WHICH WILL BE BUILT AT THE CORNER OF MAPLEGROVE AND MAPLE HILL ROADS CERTAINLY ADDS EXCITEMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES.
- WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE A “DREAM TEAM” TO BRAINSTORM PROMOTION OF OUR BUSINESSES DURING THE DREAM HOUSE TOURS.
- IT IS EXCITING TO HAVE OUR COMMUNITY CENTER SHOWING LIFE AGAIN AND THE RECREATION COMMISSION IS ASSISTING IN GETTING THIS YEAR’S PROGRAMS OFF THE GROUND.
- WE HAVE PROMOTED THOSE EVENTS THROUGH OUR NEWLY CREATED ART GALLERY DISPLAY WHICH WILL BE GREAT ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE VISITORS TO THE BUILDING AND LIBRARY.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT DISCUSSION AND I ENJOYED LISTENING TO THE OTHER MAYORS WHO ALL SEEM TO HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS IN THEIR CITIES.

- WITH THE NICE WEATHER JUST AROUND THE CORNER, I HAVE STARTED TO PLAN FOR THE ROAD AND SERVICE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT WE WILL BE UNDERTAKING.
- ON TONIGHT’S LEGISLATION, I REQUESTED AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE 2019 PAVEMENT MARKINGS PROGRAM. WE DO THIS EVERY OTHER YEAR AND I APPRECIATE PASSAGE OF THIS ORDINANCE TO ONCE AGAIN GET THIS PROJECT DONE.
- WE ARE WAITING FOR PERMITS FROM EPA AND ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BEFORE BEGINNING THE DODD BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT, BUT PLAN TO GO OUT TO BID SHORTLY THEN CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IN EARLY SPRING.
- FOLLOWING THAT, THE DODD ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT WILL BEGIN IN EARLY FALL AS WE AWAIT FOR OPW GRANT FUNDING.

- I AM REVIEWING THE ENGINEERS ESTIMATE FOR THE RESURFACING OF TRAILARD, GLENGATE AND MAYFRIARS. THIS WILL COINCIDE WITH THIS YEAR'S BUDGET FOR ROAD REPAIR. THE TOTAL PROJECTED COST OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING ENGINEERING IS \$504,544.

- LASTLY, WE ARE WORKING ON THE STRATFORD PLACE PUMP STATION AND ANTICIPATE COMPLETION OF THAT PROJECT SOON.

- I WANT TO CONGRATULATE POLICE OFFICER CRAIG ANDERSON ON HIS WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT ON FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>. HE HAS HAD A FINE CAREER WITH OUR DEPARTMENT ON A FULL-TIME BASIS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HIM COMING BACK PART-TIME TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF OUR COMMUNITY.

- FINALLY, I WANT TO OFFER CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF OUR WILLOUGHBY HILLS COMMUNITY WHO PASSED AWAY RECENTLY:

BEVERLY SIVO

ANTE BREKALO

CHARLES MORMINO

ANTHONY JACKETTI

DON MIKLICH

MILI LEKAN

ANN ZAKELJ

ANGELA LAURICH (THE GRANDMOTHER OF COUNCILMAN HALLUM'S WIFE) AND ALSO, ERNEST BATTELLEY.

- ERNIE WAS THE RESIDENT WHO, THREE YEARS AGO, EXPERIENCED A FLOOD TO HIS HOUSE IN THE GLEN. HE AND HIS DOG WERE HELPLESS AS THEY SAW THEIR LIFELONG HOME DESTROYED BY THE RAVAGES OF THE WATER.

- THAT NIGHT, TWO THOUGHTFUL RESIDENTS NAMED JENNY AND RAY SANVIDO TOOK THEM IN FOR THE NIGHT AND THEN CALLED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE MORNING FOR FURTHER DIRECTION ON GETTING HIM HELP.

- THE POLICE DISPATCHER REFERRED THE CALL TO MY OFFICE AND THE WHISPER PROGRAM SEEKED TO FIND THIS MAN SHELTER AND BASICALLY A NEW LIFE OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

- AT THIS WEEK'S MEMORIAL SERVICE, THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING STATED THAT WE "SAVED THIS MAN'S LIFE" WITH OUR ACTIONS AND I WANT TO REITERATE HOW MUCH GOOD WAS DONE FOR THIS MAN.

- THIS MAN WAS NOT ABUSED, TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OR DEPRIVED OF FAIR REAL ESTATE VALUE ON A HOME THAT WAS WORTH ONLY WHAT HE GOT FOR IT AND WAS IT WAS APPRAISED FOR AT THAT TIME, NOT WHAT WAS SHOWN ON THE TAX RECORDS WHEN THE HOUSE WAS IN GOOD CONDITION.

- I ONLY BRING THIS UP TONIGHT BECAUSE ERNIE'S DEATH HAS CAUSED ME TO REFLECT ON THE GOOD THAT WE DID FOR HIM DURING HIS FINAL THREE YEARS.

- AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION, I DO NOT WANT THIS MEMORY TO BE TAINTED BY HURTFUL, UNSUBSTANTIATED SUSPICIONS BY INDIVIDUALS WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION.

- I AM PROUD OF THE WORK WE DID TO HELP ERNIE AND I HOPE WE CONTINUE TO HELP OTHERS WHO NEED OUR HELP. SO THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ERNIE DURING HIS LIFETIME WHEN HE WAS JUST A STRANGER BUT BECAME A FRIEND.

- AS A BOARD MEMBER OF LIFELINE, I ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO INQUIRE ABOUT BEING A GUARDIAN FOR THOSE IN NEED.

- YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW THE WHOLE PROCESS SHOWS ACCOUNTABILITY AND FAIRNESS TO ENSURE THAT ELDER ABUSE WOULD NOT OCCUR. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW IT HELPS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NO FAMILY IN THEIR FINAL DAYS. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A GOOD THING AND IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

- IT IS VERY FITTING THAT I EXPRESS THIS TODAY, ON VALENTINE'S DAY AND I HOPE PEOPLE LEARN FROM IT.